

## FLAG DAY JUNE 14TH.

Flag Day was celebrated last Monday, June 14th. On that day, one hundred and forty-three years ago the Congress of the United States declared the Stars and Stripes to be the emblem of the nation. With that symbol thirteen stripes and thirteen stars set in a field of blue—the American colonies served notice to the world of the birth of a new and independent nation whose motto was "Liberty."

At that time some of the countries of the old world were under the iron heels of more powerful nations. Might made right.

The appearance of the American flag, a "new constellation" as Congress termed it, was not without its significance to the world at large. It signified that the American people had elected to live their own national life according to the wishes of the majority and that they were prepared to fight to hold on to their independence.

The flag was particularly full of meaning to the subject peoples in Europe who were praying for liberation. Here at least was a new land promising everything which they yearned for at home, and if they could not have freedom and liberty in their own land, they could have it in the Colonies.

So people in Europe began to come over to the United States. Some were rather skeptical. They thought this freedom would not last long. They thought that one or other of the powerful nations would put the colonies under the yoke. But the most venturesome as well as the most liberty-loving of the peoples of Europe began to come, although in comparatively small numbers at the outset.

Thirty-five years went by and the American nation had occasion to fight to preserve its rights on the high seas. Like the War of Independence, this war was successful. Europe began to take more notice. More and more people began to come, until, in the course of a little more than a half century, a stream of immigrants was pouring into the United States. Again, those who came were largely those who were denied liberty at home.

And then it was found that the United States offered opportunities which were not to be found elsewhere in the world to the same marked degree. So added to the stream of immigrants seeking freedom was the stream of immigrants seeking opportunity and millions came here, as a glance at the immigration figures beginning with 1850 will show.

Native and foreign born became heroes of science, promoting both civilization and prosperity. These things

created new kinds of employments and those in turn created new opportunities and around them grew greater opportunities until the United States became what the world admits today, "The Land of Opportunity" where men of brain and brawn may find employment and where their efforts are most likely to be crowned with success.

With increasing numbers of peoples from Europe came increasing strength and increasing prosperity. Civilization was moved westward to a great territory hereto undeveloped and practically inaccessible. A great number of foreign born were among those pioneers who blazed the way through the forests—fearless men who faced the winter and dangers lurking behind tree and brush. They helped build the great railroads which some years later were to connect the East with the West and to make it possible for people to travel quickly from one part of this great country to the other.

Then came great strides in commerce and industry. What part of the foreign born played in this development is too well known to require comment. Not only did these hardy men help to do hauling, the track laying, the digging, but they brought inventive genius, art, science and culture. From them sprang generations of native Americans. European writers have never tired telling of the many racial strains represented in the composite citizenship of America and to this fact they, as well as native writers, have attributed many of the elements of America's strength and progress.

But the vital idea represented by the Stars and Stripes is after all the secret of America's great success. That vital idea is "Freedom"—Freedom of conscience and freedom of creeds, and in celebrating Flag Day, the nation pays its respects to the memory of the Colonial Fathers who won the liberty and independence which the American flag advertised to the world on June 14, 1777.

## — A GOOD DEED IN A COLD WORLD.

Hearty thanks and congratulations may well be offered to Mr. Nathan Straus for his admirable contribution toward restoring better conditions in the country in offering both his Lakewood and Adirondack estates, as rest centres for soldiers, "regardless of race, creed or color." Mr. Straus announced this benefaction at a memorial service for American veterans held last week in Harlem. He said he had watched the parades of the returning veterans with a heavy heart, because

the young faces looked so worn and tried, and he had determined to make this effort toward lifting the general burden.

No charity this, in any repugnant sense, but love for mankind in gracious form; it is the very quality of mercy, which "blesses him that gives and him that takes." These splendid expanses of rest and shelter for the men during the difficult period of readjustment could scarcely be improved upon in aptness or desirability. The beauty of the highly cultivated reaches of the Lakewood place are counterbalanced by the invigorating depths of the Adirondack forest.

In such lovely surroundings the gallant young men, who went to the fire in the line of duty, may most readily

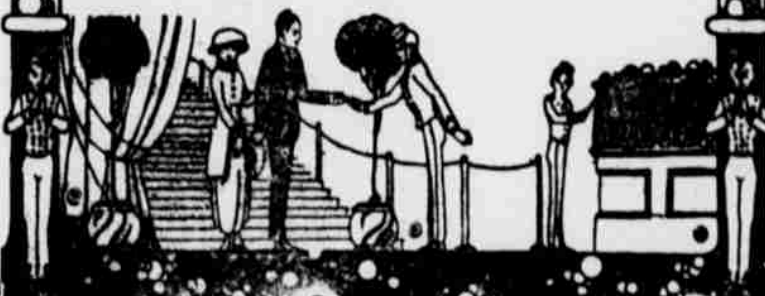
regain tranquility of spirit, and a mind clearer to attack life's future problems. Mr. Straus has done as fine a thing for the soldiers as he did for the babies with his inauguration of an abundant and wholesome milk supply. In each case his action has been discreet, benevolent, and a direct help to a class in the population who needed help beyond their own powers.—Editorial in the New York Sun.

The Central Board of the Mizrahi World Organization has appointed a Board of famous scholars of various countries to advise it on matters concerning the development of a sound educational system in Palestine.

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